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	Application No.	Applicant(s)	7
Notice of Allowability	10/743,469	KATOH ET AL.	
Notice of Allowability	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Saúl J. Rodríguez	3681	
The MAILING DATE of this communication ap All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-INOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.3	IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this app 85) or other appropriate communication RIGHTS. This application is subject to	plication. If not included will be mailed in due cou	rse. THIS
1. This communication is responsive to			
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are <u>15-17</u> .			
3. \boxtimes The drawings filed on <u>23 December 2003</u> are accepted	by the Examiner.		,
 4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority a) All b) Some* c) None of the: Certified copies of the priority documents heteroidal copies of the priority documents heteroidal copies of the certified copies of the priority International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * Certified copies not received: 	ave been received. ave been received in Application No. <u>09</u> documents have been received in this	national stage application	
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DAT noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDO THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE. 5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be su	NMENT of this application.		
INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which of			02 0 .
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") re (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsp 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date (b) including changes required by the attached Examin Paper No./Mail Date Paper No./Mail Date Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CF each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such	person's Patent Drawing Review (PTO- —	Office action of ngs in the front (not the bad d).	·
 DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the de attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMEN 			the
 Attachment(s) 1. ☑ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-94) 3. ☑ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/S Paper No./Mail Date	8) 6. Interview Summary Paper No./Mail Da B/08), 7. Examiner's Amendr		·
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REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claims 15, 16, and 17 recite the combination of a viscous fluid coupling comprising a housing, an operation plate, a valve mechanism, a plurality of first, second and third circumferential projections, and a fluid return passage. Of particualar patentable significance is the recitation that the first, second and third circumferential projections have the same axial distance respectively; that the third circumferential projections are disposed at a radially outer side of the second circumferential projections, that the third circumferential projections are smaller than the second circumferential projections (claims 15 and 16); that the dimensions third circumferential projections are ranges from two-thirds to a half of an overlapped amount of the that the first and second circumferential projections (claim 17). The resulting combinations are not shown by the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Saúl J. Rodríguez whose telephone number is (703) 308-7575. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles A. Marmor can be reached on (703) 308-308-0830. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Examiner Art Unit 3681

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